A Pleaſant BALLAD of

TOBIAS.

Wherein is ſhewn what wonderful Things befell him in his Youth, and how he wedded a young Damſel that had ſeven Husbands, but never enjoyed their Company, being ſlain by an evil Spirit.

IN *Ninevah* old *Toby* dwelt.
An aged Man, and blind was he.
And much Affliction he had felt
Which brought him unto Miſery.
He had by *Anna* his ſweet Wife
One only Son, and eke no more.
Which was the Comfort of his Life,
And he by him did ſet great Store.
He brought him up ſo virtuouſly,
In true Obedience and in Awe.
That every Day he did apply
To fear the Lord, and keep his Law.
Upon a time it came to paſs
He call'd his Son to him with ſpeed.
Then thus to him theſe words did frame,
My Son, *quoth he*, thou know'ſt my Need.
Thou muſt unto *Gabel* go
To *Raguel's* Houſe in *Madea* land.
For I did lend him long ago
Ten Talents on his own Bond.

My Father dear, *Tobias* ſaid,
At your Command I ſtrait will go.
How ſhall I get the Money paid,
Seeing the Man I ne'er did know.
Take then the Writings here with thee,
Which are ſufficient to be ſeen.
And get a Guide to go with thee
Since thou that Way haſt never been.
Now a Guide *Tobias* ſoon had got,
An Angel in the ſhape of Man.
Which thing he did not know God-wot.
The Lord had ſo appointed then.
Tobias with his bleſſed Guide,
Went on his Journey thus with ſpeed.
Until they came to *Tigris Side*,
At the fair Flood they did abide.
Tobias would go waſh him there,
By Reaſon of the Summer's Heat.
But a mighty Fiſh put him in Fear.
Which leap'd out of the Waters deep.

Cut up the Fiſh the Angel ſaid,
And keep the Liver, Heart and Gall.
To do the ſame be not afraid,
Great Cures there ſhall be done withal.
When this was done away they went,
And coming near his Journey's End.
We'll lodge to-night the Angel ſaid,
With *Raguel*, thy dear Father's Friend.
He had a Daughter fair of Face,
And alſo of a virtuous Life.
And when that we come to that Place,
I'll ſpeak that ſhe may be thy Wife.
Why good *Azarus*, then quoth he.
(For ſo they did the Angel call)
I wiſh ſhe is no Love for me.
Swift Death doth all her Lovers fall.
Seven Men to her have wedded been,
Which in her Love did take Delight.
When her Bed-Chamber they have ſeen,
They have not lived half the Night.
Some wicked Spirit haunts her ſo,
He will not ſuffer any Man.
With her into the Bed to go,
But wor'ks their Deaths do all they can.
The Angel ſaid, Good Courage take,
For ſo it ſhall not be with thee.
For ſuch Perfumes I will thee make,
The wicked Spirit away ſhall flee.
To *Raguel's* Houſe away they run,
Where *Sarah* met them fair and bright.
Then after Salutation done,
She brought them to her Father's Sight.
Good Cheer there was, and down they ſat.
And all for young *Tobio's* ſake;
Then after a long and pleaſant Chat
Betwixt them two a Match did make.
By *Moſes's* Laws they wedded were.
The Bride's Bed-Chamber prepar'd likewiſe,
When young *Tobias* came in there,
The tears fell down from *Sarah's* Eyes.
A Pan of Coals he brought with him,
The Fiſh's Heart and Liver there,
Within the Fire he threw in,
Which caſt a Savour every where.
Now by that ſweet and pleaſant Smell,
The wicked Spirit was diſpleas'd.
Within that Room he could not dwell,
And therefore out he went in haſte.
In Bed they laid this beauteous Bride,
The Chamber Door was ſhut therefore.
Young *Toby* lying by her Side.
Whom he did think to ſee no more.

Now therefore *Raguel* in the Night,
For him before had made a Grave.
Then to his Wife he wept and ſaid,
There is no Means his Life to ſave.
One of the Maidens ſend quoth he,
To ſee how all Matters do ſtand.
And if ſo be that he be dead,
He ſhall be buried by my Hand.
This Maiden joyful News did bring,
Tobias is alive, quoth ſhe;
When *Raguel* he heard this Thing.
He then rejoic'd exceedingly.
For Joy he made a ſolemn Feaſt,
The Bridal fourteen Days they kept:
So there came many a Friendly Gueſt,
In Sorrow now no more they ſlept.
Azarus went ſtraitway,
Unto the Feaſt *Gabael* brought.
Rejoicing at this Marriage-Day,
And paid the Money that he ought.
But yet old *Toby* and his Wife
Did all this while in Sorrow dwell.
They thought their Son had loſt his Life,
And nothing could their Grief expel.
His aged Mother every Day
Did watch cloſe to the Highway-ſide.
She for his Welfare oft did pray,
No Meat nor Drink ſhe could abide.
But when the Wedding ended was,
Young *Toby* with his loving Bride,
To *Ninevah* did backwards paſs,
With Goods and Chattles on each ſide.
But *Toby* and the Angel bright
Before his Wife made haſte to go:
For to prepare all things right,
His lovely Bride to welcome to.
His Mother watching in the Way,
Full ſoon eſpy'd her lovely Son.
Rejoicing at that happy Day,
She told her Husband he was come.
Whereat old *Toby* tumbled out,
For he was blind and could not ſee.
Young *Toby* with the Fiſh's Gall
Rubb'd both his Eyes immediately.
Whereat the Whiteneſs of his Eyes
Incontinent did fall out quite.
So that before he did ariſe.
He got again his perfect Sight.
Great Joy there was on every Side,
Young *Toby* told his Father all
Who went to meet his lovely Bride,
With Joy and Mirth that was not ſmall.

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